

South Dakota National Guard

Public Affairs Office

Phone: 605-737-6721 Email: ng.sd.sdarng.list.pao@mail.mil

Web: <https://sdguard.ngb.army.mil>

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Rep. Noem receives operational update on SD National Guard

RAPID CITY, S.D. – U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem met with leaders from the South Dakota National Guard Tuesday, Aug. 25, at Camp Rapid to receive an operational overview of the state's nearly 4,200 member force.

The visit brought Noem up to date on the SDNG's current capabilities, operations and future challenges.

Noem, who is serving in her third consecutive term in the U.S. House of Representatives, met with Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, the adjutant general of the SDNG, and senior staff leaders.

"We appreciate Congresswoman Noem taking time out of her schedule to give us an opportunity to give her an operational summary on the current state of the South Dakota National Guard," said Reisch. "There are a number of national issues that impact our organization such as future fighting strength, budget cuts and support for our service members and veterans."

Noem received a briefing, toured facilities and spoke with Soldiers and Airmen to gain additional insight on how these national impacts are effecting, and could continue to affect, the National Guard here in the state.

Topics covered were the National Defense Authorization Act – a national commission to assess the Army's active and reserve components' size and force mix; impacts of the Budget Control Act – across-the-board spending cuts effects on force structure size and operational readiness; and the Aviation Restructure Initiative.

"The National Guard has stepped up to meet the demands of a volatile and dangerous 21st century world," said Rep. Noem. "We have a moral responsibility to ensure their needs are met. As we work toward finalizing FY2016 funding, I am committed to ensuring the National Guard and all our men and women in uniform are made a priority and given the tools and resources necessary to complete the missions ahead. Our continued security and their lives depend on it."

"The SDNG is doing everything it can to maximize training opportunities and resources to remain relevant, ready and reliable in light of continuing DoD cuts, Army restructuring and the effects of sequestration," said Reisch. "The National Guard provides immense value to the taxpayer for domestic and overseas missions at a fraction of the cost to the active duty component."

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High resolution photos below are available at www.flickr.com/photos/southdakotationalguard



150825-Z-TL267-001: U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem visits with Army Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, adjutant general of the South Dakota National Guard, during a visit to Camp Rapid, in Rapid City, S.D., Aug. 25, 2015. Noem received an operational overview of the SDNG on their current capabilities, operations and future challenges. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Maj. Anthony Deiss/Released)



150825-Z-TL267-002: U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem receives a brief from Army Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, adjutant general of the South Dakota National Guard, during a visit to Camp Rapid, in Rapid City, S.D., Aug. 25, 2015. Noem received an operational overview of the SDNG on their current capabilities, operations and future challenges. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Maj. Anthony Deiss/Released)



150825-Z-TL267-003: Army Lt. Col. Jim Selchert briefs U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem on the South Dakota National Guard's Joint Operations Center during a visit to Camp Rapid, in Rapid City, S.D., Aug. 25, 2015. Noem received an operational overview of the SDNG on their current capabilities, operations and future challenges. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Maj. Anthony Deiss/Released)

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Please contact Maj. Anthony Deiss at (605) 737-6721 or cell (605) 431-8753, or e-mail ng.sd.sdarng.list.pao@mail.mil.